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Clinton visit will boost Indo-US ties: Pallone

Clinton cautions against 'digital divide' in India

Praises Naidu for his governance, announces \$5m aid for spreading Internet in rural areas

Hyderabad, March 24: US President Bill Clinton stressed the need to harness technology to make a dent on poverty and cautioned against a "digital divide" between the haves and have-nots during a visit on Friday to the city positioning itself as India's next Silicon Valley.

During the brief visit to the Andhra Pradesh capital, Mr Clinton announced \$5 million in aid to spread the Internet in rural India and also visited a hospital where he administered the final dose of tuberculosis medicine to a patient and declared her cured to mark "World TB Day."

The highlight of his trip was a visit to Hyderabad's Hi-Tech City, a giant information technology complex, where he interacted with IT professionals and

attended an audio-visual presentation by chief minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

"It's a good thing we're creating a lot of 25-year-old multi-millionaires; it's a good thing that we're seeing the latest Indian start-ups shoot up the Nasdaq," Mr Clinton said in a speech to the assemblage that started in a jocular vein and ended on a serious note.

His audience comprised the cream of Indian industry including Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro Corporation, Dewang Mehta, chief of the National Association for Software and Service Companies, Suhas Patil, chairman emeritus of Cyrus Logic, Bajaj Auto Ltd. chief Rahul Bajaj and Vinod Doshi of Premier Automobiles.

"But this whole enterprise cannot just be

about higher profits, there must also be a higher purpose," Mr Clinton said.

In India, millions are connected to the Internet, but millions more aren't yet connected to fresh water, he noted, sketching the contrasts in India. India accounts for 30 per cent of the world's software engineers but 25 per cent of the world's malnourished. "So our challenge is to turn the newest discoveries into the best weapons humanity has ever had to fight poverty," Mr Clinton said, stressing such areas as education, healthcare, the environment and clean energy in which "technology has a big role to play."

He said Hyderabad, which is establishing a "green business centre" to bring the private sector and government together to

promote clean energy development and environmental technology, could lead the nation and help lead the world towards a serious reassessment of the need to reverse the tide of global warming and climate change.

"Because, in the new economy, you do not have to pollute the atmosphere and warm the planet to grow the economy. In the new economy, you can create more jobs by promoting energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy than by polluting the environment," Mr Clinton said.

He warned, "We cannot work to lift what has been called the 'Silk Curtain,' which has divided the United States and India for too long now, only to have a digital divide arise in both our countries between the

haves and have-nots.

"Mr Clinton said the Internet could be harnessed to promote education to provide the poorest places in the world with "access to the same learning materials that only the richest schools offer their students today." "We can do that if we do it together," he said. "And it isn't just good public values; it would be good economics. It would mean, among other things, that the world's (second) most populous nation would have the world's largest number of educated people, and therefore, in no time would have the world's largest economy. He praised Mr Naidu for steering "the ship of this state" into a cyber future, adding "I want to steer with you."

(India Abroad News Service)

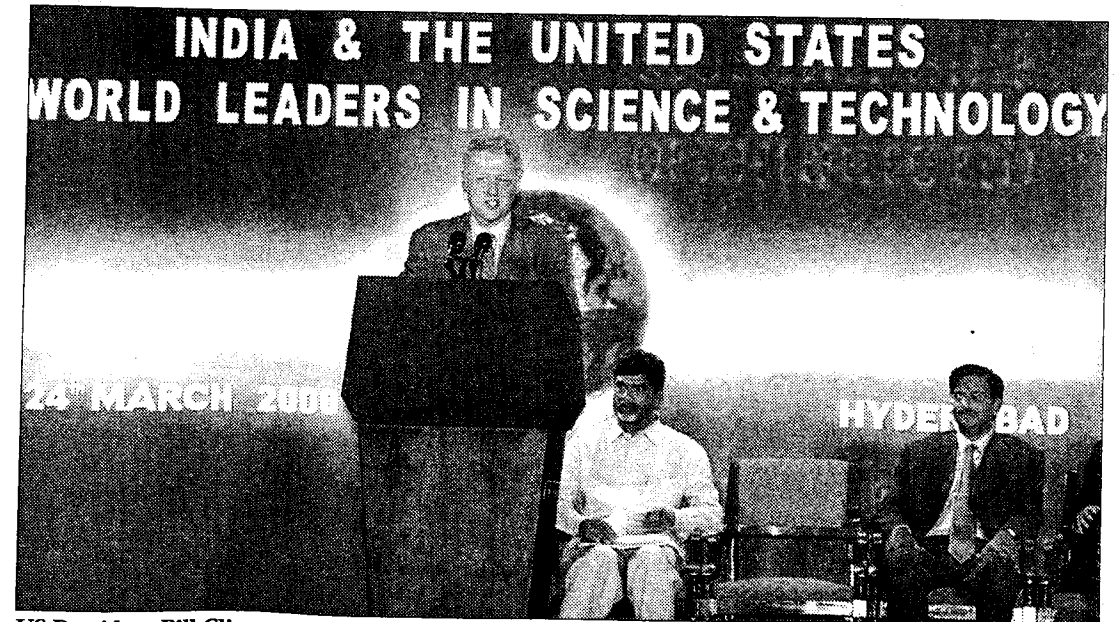
I want to steer with you: Clinton

B K Sudhakar Reddy
HYDERABAD 24 MARCH

THE Clinton visit to Hyderabad, nay Cyberabad, laid down the quality of business partnership that the US is trying to forge with India. Paying rich compliments to India's genius in the areas of science and technology, Mr Clinton underlined the growing integration of Indian enterprise and expertise in the areas of convergence technologies.

Rich in subtly stated intentions, the US President's keynote address on 'India & the United States — World leaders in information technology' expressed in understated tones the quality, scope and breadth of cooperation (partnership) between the United States and India. He said, "I hope there would be no borders in electronic commerce between our two countries. We want to take infotech trade between the two countries to new heights. India has the second largest pool of trained scientists. More than 750 companies in Silicon Valley are owned by Indian Americans. Our future depends upon whether we have the right kind of partnership with India."

Announcing a \$5 million aid to spread internet in rural India, he said, "India has the potential to become one of the IT super powers by using the power of internet for education. Internet will help the poorest regions in the world to have access to the same learning materials that the richest schools



US President Bill Clinton addresses a meeting at the Hi-Tech-City in Hyderabad on Friday. Next to Clinton is Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu. — AFP

provide to their students. It means, among other things, one of the world's most populous nation will have the world's largest number of educated people and therefore, in no time, would have the world's largest economy."

"The true test of information technology," he said, "lies not in preparing a feast, rather in how many people who can sit at the table and enjoy the feast. It is not enough to see many 25-year old multi-millionaires growing out of IT. Higher profits must go with higher purpose. Information tech-

nology must be used for the empowerment of individuals and must result in commitment to the community." Earlier, the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.Chandrababu Naidu welcoming the US President said, "the new century is a century of great opportunity. It is a century that will see the emergence of the information age and the knowledge society. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity of leap-frogging into the future. We look forward to forging new partnerships in this endeavour." Mr Naidu explained how he

is pursuing a new vision in Andhra Pradesh. A vision that is built on the foundation of knowledge economy. The hugely attended meeting was dense with the top corporate leaders. Prominent among those who were present were Mr Ratan Tata, Mr Shekhar Bajaj, Mr Rahul Bajaj, Mr R J Shahane, Mr Rajesh V Shah, Mr Jamshed J Irani, Dr Anji Reddy, Mr Brihmohan Lall, Mr N R Narayana Murthy, Mr Ramalinga Raju, Mr Anand Mahindra, Mr R Gopalakrishna, Mr Rajan Nanda, Mr R Seshasayee and Mr Ramesh Maheshwari.

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Indian Express 3/25/00

President Clinton with nine-month-old Sandhya Balakrishna after he administered oral polio vaccine to the baby in Hyderabad. Reuters photo

In dotcom country, Clinton talks about poor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, MARCH 24

THOUSANDS of people, including children in school uniforms, lined up along the 25-km route from the NTR airport to the Hi-Tec city to welcome William Jefferson Clinton to India's dotcom country.

The thoroughfare was spruced up and decorated with eye-catching banners and billboards that read "From Silicon Valley to Cyberabad," "Welcome to the the happening state" and "Thank You Mr President."

Clinton did not let them down. An inimitable smile and waving did

the magic. People shouted slogans: "We love Clinton" and "India-US friends." Clinton was happy that India was fast becoming one of the world's software superpowers but emphatically advised that all efforts should be directed at ensuring that the benefits of newer technologies reached the vast majority of the population but not shared by a few.

He said: "Millions of Indians are connected to the Internet but millions more aren't yet connected to fresh water. India not only accounts for 30 per cent of the world's software engineers but also 25 per cent of the world's malnourished. The statistics, given the wealth of

Clinton meets Ambanis

MUMBAI: Dhirubhai Ambani, chairman of the Reliance group, who was conferred with the 'Entrepreneur of the 20th century award' at a FICCI function to welcome Bill Clinton, later had an exclusive meeting lasting 40 minutes with the US President. Ambani and his two sons, Mukesh and Anil, met Clinton at Hotel Oberoi after the latter addressed business captains.

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the US, are just as troubling and challenging."

The President was addressing a gathering of India's top industrialists

and IT mandarins at the Hi-tec city. He announced a \$5-million aid to help bring Internet to schools in under-served areas in rural India.

The President spent more than two hours at Hi-Tec city, otherwise known as Cyber Towers and the symbol of IT growth in Andhra Pradesh. Sharing the dais with the President were Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who came in for praise from Clinton more than once, CII president Rahul Bajaj, Satyam Computers CEO Ramalinga Raju and Sanjay Bhatnagar of the Indo-American chamber.

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Let new ideas proliferate, not weapons: Clinton

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

MUMBAI, MARCH 24. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, made yet another pitch for his non-proliferation theme when he asked India to move away from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and move in the direction of proliferation of "new ideas, new companies and new technologies". If this happened, "then your dreams are well within your grasp", the President said during a course of a speech at the Mumbai Stock Exchange here tonight.

Recalling his visit to Naila in Rajasthan, he said, "I do believe if we can lead the region, or you can, away from the proliferation of dangerous weapons to proliferation of new ideas, new companies and technologies and away from racial and ethnic tensions we now see in the troubled spots in South Asia, we can have the sort of harmony I saw in the little village yesterday."

Mr. Clinton pointed out the fact that his visit had firmed up business agreements totalling \$ 4 billion as well as opening up the possibility of the U.S. Ex-Im Bank providing a \$ 1 billion for investments in India.

Addressing a gathering of top business leaders and captains of the Indian industry organised under the aegis of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the United States-India Business Council (USIBC), he made the point that "friends do not have to agree on all issues" and what was important was to have an honest relationship.

Underlying the importance of the need to accept diversity, Mr. Clinton argued that the "world will never be that way unless South Asia is that way".

Recalling the time he had spent at the Rajasthan village, Mr. Clinton observed that it was truly remarkable how the community there had come together over the years forgetting the fact that at one time they could not have dinner together.

Today, the residents were more concerned about immediate problems, such as lack of water. It is in this context that Mr. Clinton called on India to look at the larger picture, to break down the barriers of caste and ethnicity and in the process making the point that there was "no stopping" the country if it reached that level.



The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, along with Mr. Richard Celeste, U.S. Ambassador to India (left) Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. G.P. Goenka, president, FICCI and Mr. Frank Wisner, chairman-elect of USIBC at a meeting organised by the FICCI in Mumbai on Friday. — Photo: Vivek Bendre

'Use IT to fight poverty'

By Sandeep Dikshit

HYDERABAD, MARCH 24. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, today said it was critical for the U.S. and India to work together in order to

seize the possibilities in the information age and ensure that there is no digital divide between the haves and havenots. "We know our future depends on the right kind of partnership with India, specially in information technology, the world's newest and fastest growing economy," he observed.

Describing information technology (IT) as the best weapon available with humanity to fight poverty, Mr. Clinton felt the two nations should pool their energies to utilise IT for sociological purposes. "There is a lot we can do. We must use science to find solutions for people without regard to their income. We just want to be good partners in this endeavour," he noted while addressing industrialists of the Confederation of

Indian Industry (CII) at Hyderabad's Hitec City.

Acknowledging the role being played by Indian-Americans in the U.S., he pointed out that over 750 American companies are being run by this community in the Silicon Valley alone. This initiative is beginning to spread to India which is fast becoming a software superpower. "India has shown that developing countries can not only succeed but also lead." Indians had taken the lead in IT only due to values of nationhood laid down by Jawaharlal Nehru, said Mr. Clinton. The IT revolution was being led by graduates from institutions such as the IITs which were set up by Nehru.

Mr. Clinton felt there should be a reality check in the midst of celebration of tomorrow and the satisfaction of being fortunate. "While it is good that 25-year-olds are becoming millionaires and Indian companies are shooting up the Nasdaq, higher profits cannot be the only criteria. There has to be a higher purpose as well. While Internet connections are growing, more fresh water connections are also required. While India has 30 per cent of software engineers, it also has 25 per cent of the world's poor. There is a lot to do." The situation in the U.S. was just as distressing and challenging, he acknowledged.

Technology had an important role in this regard by ensuring that people earned decently in order to preserve other biological species. Although the theme of the U.S. President's address was IT, Mr. Clinton avoided sounding erudite and was candid enough to confess that he was still on the learning curve. "The terms used by young people had different meanings when I was their age. Chips were something you ate, discs were part of the spinal column and semi-conductors were people wishing they were heading an orchestra," he said amidst laughter. Indirectly urging those who thought they had crossed the age for learning about IT, Mr. Clinton said he had been continuously attempting to learn more about this sector ever since he started his innings as the U.S. President seven years ago. "It is wrong to say that I chose Al Gore as my Vice-President because he knew 5,000 times more than me about IT. But the difference since then has narrowed," he observed.

Earlier, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, said the his Government wanted to use IT as a strategic tool to help the common man.

Clinton warns against danger of cyber divide

'Bridge gulf between IT haves and have nots'

HT Correspondent
Hyderabad, March 24

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton today emphasised the need to harness newer technologies like infotech for eradicating poverty in the world.

"Millions of Indians are connected to the Internet, but million more are not yet connected to fresh water. India accounts for 30 per cent of the world's software engineers but also 25 per cent of the world's malnourished. So our challenge is to turn the newest discoveries into the best weapons humanity has ever had to fight poverty," he said.

Mr Clinton was addressing a gathering of about 1,200 Indian and Non Resident Indian entrepreneurs, IT engineers, media barons, politicians and bureaucrats, who had gathered at Hi-tech City on the outskirts of Hyderabad this afternoon.

Mr Clinton said that while it was good that a lot of 25-year-old multi-millionaires were being created and the latest Indian startups

were shooting up the Nasdaq, "this whole enterprise cannot just be about higher profits, there must also be a higher purpose".

Speaking about the strides made by the US in the field of Information Technology, Mr Clinton pointed out that there had been only 50 sites on World Wide Web in January 1993, when he was first elected President. Today, there are more than 50 million. "Here in India, the number of Internet users is expected to grow more than 10 times in just four years," he pointed out.

Ten years ago, India's hi-tech industries generated software and computer-related services worth \$ 150 million. Last year, the turnover grew to \$ 4 billion. Today, this industry employs more than 280,000 Indians, in jobs that pay almost double the national average, he observed, adding, "little wonder, Hyderabad is now known as Cyberabad."

He acknowledged the remarkable success of Indian Americans in this new economy: Suhas Patil (chairman-emeritus of Cyrus

Logic), Vinod Khosla (who helped build Sun Microsystems), Vinod Dahm (who created the Pentium chip), among others. He also had a word of praise for Ramalinga Raju (chairman, Satyam Computers) who shared the dais with him.

"The remarkable fact is that Indian Americans now run more than 750 companies in the Silicon Valley alone. Now, we are moving from brain drain to brain gain in India, because many are coming home," he said.

"India is fast becoming one of the world's software superpowers, providing that in a globalised world, developing nations not only can succeed, developing nations can lead. Today, it is not just IIT graduates who are leading the information revolution. India has the second largest pool of trained scientists in the entire world. The partnership of Americans and Indians proposes to raise a billion dollars for a global institute of science and technology here," he said.

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- Clinton has Cyberabad gushing
- Prez to join Mumbai Wall of Fame

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Mumbai

"I CAN not imagine a world for my children that does not include a deeper relationship and partnership with India. I came to lay the foundation to build this relationship before my job was done," an emotional American President Bill Clinton remarked on Friday evening, as he prepared to wind up his five-day visit to the country on an extremely pleasant note.

Addressing the captains of the Indian industry at a function organised by the FICCI at the Bombay Stock Exchange on the eve of his departure to Islamabad on Saturday morning, Mr Clinton said that both India and the US, if they strengthened ties, would stand to benefit in the years to come.

"If you want to imagine what India would like to be after 10 to 20 years, you can not do so without common endeavours with the United States," Mr Clinton said.

The US President, who earlier in the evening got a touching reception by hundreds and thousands of Mumbaites thronging on either side of the roads during his 30-km journey from Santa Cruz Airport to south Mumbai; said he, his daughter Chelsea and the American delegation had a wonderful experience during their stay in India and the visit had helped in having deeper understanding of the country.

The visit, which saw the signing of two dozen agreements involving an US investment of \$ four billion, would prove to be beneficial to both the countries in building a lasting bilateral relations, he said.

Mr Clinton's 15-minute speech, a large part of which delivered extempore, went very well with the Indian industry's movers and shakers and the American delegation accompanying him.

In fact, he made up for his half-an-hour delay to arrive at the function. So much so that a couple of Congressmen accompanying him remarked that they had never seen Mr Clinton so emotional while addressing a gathering.

Prior to Mr Clinton's speech, eight Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) between the United States and India were signed at the BSE conference Hall.

They included the ones signed by the Indian Exim Bank and the US Commerce department for an assistance of \$ 500 million and another between the IDBI and the UN Commerce department for an assistance of an equal amount.

Mr Clinton, who had arrived from Hyderabad on the last leg of his Indian visit, indicated that he was impressed by the way Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had put the Information Technology to effective use in developing the State.

The US President was more than confident that the IT would change the face of India during the next five years. He said that both India and the US could reap the benefits of the IT in a big way, if they worked in tandem. The change to be witnessed by India would be the similar to the one witnessed by the United States during the last five years, thanks to the spread of Internet.

He also made a special mention that the ambitious plan unveiled earlier by Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh to exploit the IT for the benefit of the State was well within the latter's grasp, given the pace with which things were happening in the State.

Mr Deshmukh had earlier expounded on his plan to turn Mumbai into "India@com" capital. Mr Clinton, who was embarrassed at the huge media splash he had received for his dancing with the women of Naila village in Rajasthan, said it was more of a spontaneous reaction based on the interaction he had with the women members of a local panchayat earlier.

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Clinton's South Asia visit assailed

By Ramesh Chandran
The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: Two weeks after the conclusion of Bill Clinton's high-profile trip to India, not everyone here is basking in the warm afterglow and intense media hype generated during the visit. A small group of critics in Washington have branded the US President's South Asia trip as a "costly failure" and "protected sightseeing". The crux of the criticism is the stunning tab for the visit which is estimated to be between \$50 million and \$75 million and a narrowly focussed view that Clinton's mission to the sub-continent was to urge compliance from both India and Pakistan with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which neither country obliged.

The charge is pretty severe: The South Asian and the Geneva segment of the visit was the "most expensive ever" taken by an American president abroad and the "least productive" foreign trip by a US chief executive. Why least productive? Because he failed to get the CTBT document signed by neither India or Pakistan and in Geneva, his interaction with Syrian President Hafez Al

Assad to kick-start the stalled West Asia peace talks had failed. There is no acknowledgement amongst this band of Clinton critics that as a result of this overdue trip, India and the US might have finally laid a firm foundation for a real substantive relationship spanning greater economic cooperation, more frequent political dialogues, a greater focus and pooling of resources to fight terrorism or that a possible clash across the Line of Control between India and Pakistan might have been averted.

Neither do the Clintonite bashers grant the possibility that the US president's tough talk in Islamabad might have drilled some sense into Pakistan's military rulers to roll back their support to terrorist outfits or attempt to "internationalise" the Kashmir dispute.

According to *The Washington Times*, much of the expense for Clinton's visit to South Asia came from the use of an aerial armada that included 26 huge C-5 and C-17 cargo planes and a formidable array of support aircraft — at least 50 of them — which were needed to ferry the US president's security and political entourages. What makes these

recent denunciations notable is the fact that a few respected political figures have lent their voices to it. One such figure is John McCain. The highly regarded Arizona Republican said: "I don't think there has been a time in recent history where a president has embarked on a foreign tour in the extensive way that he did and come up totally empty handed".

However, Clinton is unfazed by it all and was still talking about India. Speaking at a ceremony in the White House East Room on ways to alleviate the "digital divide" and to ensure no one is left behind in the information technology revolution, the US president waxed eloquent about the village women in Nayla village in Rajasthan using computers for the milk cooperatives effective functioning and the High tech city's performance in Hyderabad.

He said: "My point is that you can see the potential of this for even the poorest people in the world which is truly explosive" and added, "we need to see the digital divide not as a threat. It is the greatest opportunity the US has ever had to lift people out of poverty and ignorance".